**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT**

**Sustainability Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

February 2, 2016

4:00 p.m. Parish House, First Congregational Church of Washington, 7 Kirby Road, Washington Depot, CT

**Members Present: Mark Picton, Chris Charles, Susan Jahnke, Howard Rosenfeld, Dick Heffernon, Peter Armstrong**

Mark Picton called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Consideration of the Minutes:**

The Commission considered the minutes of the January 4, 2016 Sustainability Committee Meeting.

**Motion:**  To accept the January 4, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Sustainability Committee by Mark. Picton, seconded by Susan Jahnke, passed by 6-0.

**Organizational Issues:**

**Motion: To move the meeting location to town hall. Passed unanimously.**

**Action – Susan will check calendar to determine whether the first Monday of the month at 5 PM will fit with other scheduled meetings.**

**Town Website is linked to a new town calendar of community events. This calendar is linked to the existing town calendar showing municipal events.**

**Sustainability website is linked to Town Website. The Sustainability Committee will coordinate with the Planning Commission before posting articles and events on its site.**

**Action – the Sustainability Committee will develop guidelines for posting articles/events on its Blog and Facebook page.**

**Action – the Sustainability Committee will, develop a white room where they could facilitate public brainstorming sessions focused on specific issues.**

**Action – the Planning Commission will provide the Sustainability Committee with guidelines for managing the sustainability of the community.**

**Action – There was a one day Farm Forum hosting 181 farms in Litchfield County. It focused on liability, new foods, value added crops, affordable leases, and regional food hubs.**

**There was a recommendation to identify existing community organizations that have similar annual events and promote a closer coordination between them. For example, WEC has its earth day and the WBA has a community day in the spring.**

**Branding the Economic Development Committee has been trying to develop a brand for Washington.**

**Action – the Sustainability Committee will work on developing a Brand for Washington and on articulating the importance of sustainability.**

**AgriScience Project:**

**Mark Picton contacted Gregory Cava to offer our input during the planning and construction over the next two years at Shepaug. Gregory Cava was receptive to the offer.**

**Scope of work is focused on new buildings and remodeling of a section of the existing structure.**

* **One leverage point may be to assess impact on septic system.**
* **Another leverage point may be to identify opportunities to improve the energy conservation in existing structures.**
* **The AgriScience Project will have an adult education component which will provide opportunities to educate the community on sustainability issues.**

**Depot Plaza Renovation:**

**Current project is funded by CT DOT with an emphasis on transportation. Initial design recommended ‘lids’ and permeable surfaces. Focus has shifted to sidewalks and catch basins.**

* **Leverage point may be to assess required land and drainage requirements for septic systems supporting the infrastructure.**

**Reconciliation of Conservation and Zoning Regulations.**

**Action - There are conflicts between the initiatives for conservation and the zoning regulations which need to be reconciled.**

**Motion**: To adjourn at 5:30 p.m., by Mark Picton.

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Minutes submitted by Peter Armstrong subject to approval by Sustainability Committee.